

OPINION 1277

PTILIUM GYLLENHAL, 1827 AND *PTENIDIUM* ERICHSON, 1845
(INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): CONSERVED

RULING. — (1) Under the plenary powers:

- (a) all fixations of type species hitherto made for *Ptilium* Gyllenhal, 1827 are hereby set aside and *Ptilium caesum* Erichson, 1845 is hereby designated as type species of that nominal genus;
- (b) *Ptenidium* Erichson, 1845 is to be given nomenclatural precedence over *Anisarthria* Stephens, 1830, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (c) the specific name *pusillum* Gyllenhal, 1808, as published in the binomen *Scaphidium pusillum*, is to be given nomenclatural precedence over the specific name *melas* Marsham, 1802, as published in the binomen *Dermestes melas*.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *Ptilium* Gyllenhal, 1827 (gender: neuter), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above, *Ptilium caesum* Erichson, 1845 (Name Number 2216);
- (b) *Ptenidium* Erichson, 1845 (gender: neuter), type species, by subsequent designation by Thomson, 1859, *Scaphidium pusillum* Gyllenhal, 1808, with an endorsement that it is to be given nomenclatural precedence over *Anisarthria* Stephens, 1830 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms (Name Number 2217);
- (c) *Anisarthria* Stephens, 1830 (gender: feminine), type species, by subsequent designation by Westwood, 1838, *Dermestes melas* Marsham 1802, with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Ptenidium* Erichson, 1845, whenever the two names are considered synonyms (Name Number 2218).

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *caesum* Erichson, 1845, as published in the binomen *Ptilium caesum* (specific name of type species of *Ptilium* Gyllenhal, 1808) (Name Number 2898);
- (b) *pusillum* Gyllenhal, 1808, as published in the binomen *Scaphidium pusillum* (specific name of type species of *Ptenidium* Erichson, 1845) with an endorsement that it is to be given nomenclatural precedence over the specific name *melas* Marsham, 1802, as published in the binomen *Dermestes melas*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms (Name Number 2899);

- (c) *melas* Marsham, 1802, as published in the binomen *Dermestes melas* (specific name of type species of *Anisarthria* Stephens, 1830) with an endorsement that it is not to have priority over the specific name *pusillum* Gyllenhal, 1808, as published in the binomen *Scaphidium pusillum*, whenever the two names are considered synonyms (Name Number 2900).

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2244

An application for the conservation of the generic names *Ptilium* Gyllenhal, 1827 and *Ptenidium* Erichson, 1845 was first received from Dr Hans Silfverberg (*University Zoological Museum, Helsinki*) on 29 December 1977. After an exchange of correspondence it was sent to the printer on 8 May 1979 and published on 25 October 1979 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 36, pp. 167–170. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials, to seven general and seven entomological serials. No comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 6 July 1983 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (83)9 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 36, pp. 168–169. At the close of the voting period on 6 October 1983 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — seventeen (17) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Willink, Mroczkowski, Hahn, Trjapitzin, Starobogatov, Bayer, Schuster, Uéno, Sabrosky, Binder, Ride, Dupuis, Halvorsen, Brinck, Corliss

Negative Votes — none (0).

Late affirmative votes were received from Cocks and Alvarado and a late negative vote from Heppell. Welch was on leave of absence. No votes were returned by Bernardi, Cogger, Kraus, Lehtinen and Savage.

Ride commented: 'I should prefer to see *Anisarthria* suppressed. It has remained an unused name for over 80 years. The relative precedence procedure should be used when there is a difference of opinion over a subjective synonymy, but not to keep an unused name alive with the added confusion of an inapplicable date.' (To have adopted this suggestion would have entailed publication of a note in the *Bulletin* and advertisement of a hitherto unannounced use of the plenary powers. In view of the delay that would have caused, it was decided to prepare the Opinion immediately. R.V.M.)

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- Anisarthria* Stephens, 1830, *Illustrations of British Entomology*, Mandibulata, vol. 3, p. 61
caesum, *Ptilium*, Erichson, 1845, *Naturgeschichte der Insekten Deutschlands*, vol. 3, p. 26
melas, *Dermestes*, Marsham, 1802, *Entomologia britannica*, p. 78
Ptenidium Erichson, 1845, *Naturgeschichte der Insekten Deutschlands*, vol. 3, p. 34
Ptilium Gyllenhal, 1827, *Insecta suecica*, part 4, p. 292
pusillum, *Scaphidium*, Gyllenhal, 1808, *Insecta suecica*, part 1, p. 189.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P. (83)9 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1277.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

7 June 1984